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23 September 1948

██████████
Authorized Certifying Officer
Assistant General Counsel
Travel Authority of Chief of Substation

THRU : OSFD

1. Reference is made to your memorandum, dated 17 September 1948, concerning the above subject. You request advice as to the authority of the Chief of Substation to direct travel in his operational area.

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2. The pertinent portion of ██████████ dated 21 October 1946, is as follows:

".... authority is hereby delegated to Chiefs of each mission or individual station to:

* * * * *

(5) Approve temporary duty travel abroad within the territory of civilian employees. Chiefs may designate an employee to act for him in issuance of travel orders, and sign for him other necessary papers.

* * * * *

Other than this delegation of authority, this office is not aware of any other valid delegation of authority to Chiefs of Field Installations to approve and direct travel.

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3. Therefore, it seems the matter resolves itself into the question of whether a Chief of a Substation is, within the meaning of ██████████ a Chief of Mission or independent station. Apparently, it is the accepted view within OSO that a substation is merely a part of the station in the area of which the substation is located. Therefore, this office is of the opinion that the Chief of a Substation is not the equivalent of a Chief of Mission or independent station under ██████████. Consequently, Special Funds would not be authorized to pay travel expenses only on the basis of a travel order or an approval of a voucher by the Chief of a Substation.

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4. In view of the above, it would be highly desirable that the Chief of the Station in the area direct all travel of persons within that area, including those assigned to substations within such area. It is foreseeable that, due to lack of communication facilities, and the type of operations being conducted, advance direction of such

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travel would not be possible. Therefore, this office perceives no legal objection to approval of the travel by the Chief of Station through the mechanics of approving the voucher for reimbursement of travel expenses for a person, assigned to a substation, who had been directed to travel by the Chief of the Substation. Reimbursement by Special Funds would be authorized under such circumstances, provided the voucher was otherwise in order for payment.

5. Your question 4-a is answered above by the statement that the Chief of Station's approval of the voucher would be necessary to authorize Special Funds to reimburse travel expenses. Your question 4-b is answered in the negative since the Chief of the Substation has no travel authority as such. As to question 4-c, such delegation is specifically authorized in paragraph (5) of [REDACTED]. However, such delegation would not eliminate the necessity for the Chief of Station to direct or approve the travel in writing. Approval of the travel in writing could be accomplished by approval by the Chief of Station of the voucher claiming reimbursement of travel expenses.

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General Counsel [REDACTED]

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